



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
PROGRAM PLANNING AND INTEGRATION  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

**JUN 05 2009**

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Kimberly D. Bose

Secretary

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

888 First Street, NE, Room IA

Washington, D.C. 20426

Re: Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Jordan Cove Energy Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Terminal and Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline Project (Docket Nos. CP07-444-000 and CP07-441-000)

Dear Ms. Bose:

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is pleased to provide comments specific to the FEIS for the LNG import terminal proposed by Jordan Cove Energy Project, LP (JC) and the associated sendout natural gas pipeline proposed by Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline, LP (PCGP), from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the lead federal agency (Docket No. CP07-444-000 and CP07-441-000, respectively, issued May 1, 2009). According to the FEIS, Jordan Cove's LNG terminal would be located on the bay side of the North Spit of Coos Bay, about 7.5 miles up the exiting Coos Bay navigation channel, in Coos County, Oregon. Pacific Connector's proposed 36-inch-diameter sendout pipeline would extend from Jordan Cove's LNG terminal about 234 miles southeast across Coos, Douglas, Jackson, and Klamath Counties, Oregon to a terminus near Malin, Oregon, where it would interconnect with the existing pipeline systems of Gas Transmission Northwest Corporation, Tuscarora Gas Transmission Company, and Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) offers these comments in addition to those comments previously provided by NMFS on December 1, 2008, on the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) and on March 28, 2008, on the applicant-prepared biological assessment, which NMFS incorporates here by reference. The comments are based on NMFS' special expertise and responsibility to manage, conserve, and protect marine and coastal living resources as provided under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. In all cases, the comments have relevancy, either directly or indirectly, to NMFS' responsibilities under that legislation, and are consistent with the agency's regulatory obligation to its trust resources.



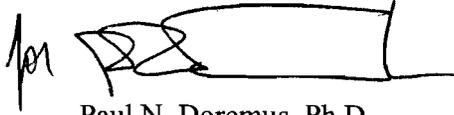
In reviewing the FEIS, NMFS has found that many of the December 1, 2008, DEIS comments have not been addressed. The following issues are of particular importance to the environmental effects of this project:

1. Jordan Cove proposes to include natural gas liquids (NGL) extraction facilities as part of its terminal to control sendout gas quality and recover NGL for sale. Jordan Cove stated that it would only recover NGL if a railroad could be used to transport NGL from the site, but the rail line is currently inactive and in disrepair. The NGL would not be transported on this rail line but for this project. The environmental impacts dependent upon this project, including rail line repair and NGL transport, were not analyzed in the FEIS.
2. Jordan Cove no longer proposes to include fish exclusion screens with a fixed water delivery system to the hulls of the ships. NMFS maintains that screening ballast and engine cooling water is the most effective method to minimize adverse effects to the aquatic resources. While the U.S. Coast Guard has identified some regulatory difficulties with the original screening design proposed in the DEIS, those difficulties do not preclude its implementation.
3. Stormwater from the Jordan Cove site will be discharged into Coos Bay. The FEIS says the water will be tested before being discharged, but does not say what contaminants will be tested for and what levels will be allowed to be discharged. There is no indication in the FEIS that FERC recognizes that stormwater carries heavy metals, petroleum products and brake chemicals and compounds that are deleterious to fish and fish habitat.
4. Discussion of hydrostatic test water discharge still does not address concerns with chemicals inside the pipeline and inter-basin transfer of non-native species.
5. Long term losses of large wood from the pipeline corridor where it crosses streams is not correctly analyzed or mitigated. The FEIS states that the desired future condition of late successional riparian forest stands is 40 trees per acre, and presumes this level of stocking is adequate to protect the beneficial influences on salmonid habitat. NMFS knows of no literature that supports this claim. Reference stand characteristics for late successional forests have significantly higher stocking rates. Furthermore, the number of snags and downed logs has to be taken into consideration when analyzing the effects of forest removal. A stocking rate of 40 trees per acre would never result in density dependent mortality of trees, starving the stream of large wood for up to 200 years.
6. The mitigation plans for eelgrass, sub-tidal lands, inter-tidal lands and stream crossings are not complete. Until they are complete, analysis in the FEIS is incomplete and premature.

Specific discussion of these six topics does not devalue the importance of other NMFS comments that were not addressed in the FEIS. NMFS stands by all previous comments and asks FERC to address them in their entirety. Furthermore, on March 13, 2009, NMFS proposed to list the southern distinct population segment of eulachon (*Thaleichthys pacificus*) as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (74 FR 10857). This species occurs in Coos Bay and the Pacific Ocean and will be affected by the proposed project. The environmental impacts to this species need to be analyzed in the FEIS.

NOAA appreciates the opportunity to comment at this time and looks forward to continuing to provide FERC with assistance on the subject action. Please direct questions regarding this letter to Chuck Wheeler, fishery biologist, at NMFS Northwest Region office, at 541-957-3379.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "P. Doremus", written over a rectangular box. To the left of the box is a vertical line with a small loop at the top, possibly a checkmark or a stylized mark.

Paul N. Doremus, Ph.D.  
NOAA NEPA Coordinator  
Office of Program Planning and Integration

Enclosures: Certificate of Service

cc: SERVICE LIST

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline, L.P.	)	FERC Project Nos.	CP07-441-000
	)		CP07-442-000
	)		CP07-443-000
	)		
Jordan Cove Energy Project, L.P.	)	FERC Project No.	CP07-444-000
	)		
Application for Certificate	)	(Jordan Cove Natural Gas Terminal	
	)	and Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline	
	)	Project)	
	)		

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served, by electronic mail, a letter to Kimberly D. Bose, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, from the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding this letter addressing concerns about information in the final environmental impact statement, and this Certificate of Service has been served electronically or by first class mail to each person designated on the official service list compiled by the Commission in the above-captioned proceeding.

Dated this 8th day of June, 2009.



Chuck Wheeler  
Southwest Oregon Branch  
Oregon State Habitat Office  
National Marine Fisheries Service